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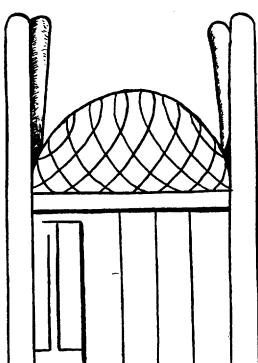
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BRIEF NOTES

The oldest monumental evidence of a dome-structure

Prof. C. C. Torrey in a lecture delivered on December 7, 1918 in the University Museum at Philadelphia on 'The Glories of Mohammedan Art,' gave as a very early example of dome-structures in the Near East an Assyrian monumental representation of such a structure. I have since found an instance of such a structure which reaches back to pre-dynastic times in Egypt. I refer the reader to Jean Capart's *Les débuts de l'art en Égypte*,



pl. 1, facing page 223. In the upper right corner of the 'Palette en schiste avec scènes de chasse' is the representation of one of the oldest known temples in Egypt. The palette itself may be dated, roughly speaking, about 4000 B. C. I give here an enlarged copy of the interesting temple-structure, which plainly shows the dome. Notice that the lines in the dome represent the material out of which the structure is made, i. e., reeds. But this material is hardly original to this kind of structure, and in my

opinion the dome must have originated in a country where there existed much rainfall and in which the mason's material consisted primarily of clay. It seems that an eminently practical view-point invented this dome-form. In order to protect the roof more thoroughly against the down-pouring rain, the clay-roof instead of being made flat received this kind of form. No archaeological matériel from the country of the Euphrates and Tigris valley which would illustrate the occurrence of this structure also in that country has yet been discovered, but I may venture to say that it is not altogether impossible that the pre-dynastic Egyptian dome-structure ultimately goes back to Babylonia.

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